

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-HPLB(PL)08

Question Serial No.

S052

Head : 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer : Director of Lands

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands

Question: Regarding Reply Serial No. HPLB(PL)081, please inform this Committee of:

- (a) the net increase in the number of posts and their respective ranks of Land Inspector grade in 2007-08;
- (b) the rationale for the increase of such posts; and
- (c) the reasons for creating such posts despite objections by the relevant staff union.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) The Lands Department (Lands D) plans to use its existing resources to create 22 Land Inspector I posts and four Land Inspector II posts in early 2007-08. These posts were originally included in the 2006-07 Estimates for creation in early 2007 but due to the time taken to finalise the staffing structure and to carry out the recruitment work, the Department now aims to create these posts in early 2007-08.
- (b) The creation of the above 26 Land Inspector grade posts is part and parcel of Lands D's efforts to strengthen its land control and lease enforcement work. In response to the advice of the Legislative Council Panel on Planning, Lands and Works and the recommendation of the Ombudsman, the Department has made a firm commitment to strengthen these two areas of work.
- (c) There is an urgent need to strengthen the land control and lease enforcement work of Lands D. The creation of 26 additional Land Inspector grade posts will help relieve the work pressure faced by the existing staff. The Department is fully aware that the concerned staff union has different views on the proposal and will continue its dialogue with the union on how land control and lease enforcement work can be further enhanced.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title _____

Director of Lands

Date _____

23 March 2007